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Major Milestones

1987 Early Education Initiative: A grant program providing competitive funds for early education programs for 3 and 4 year olds at risk. Replaced this year by Act 166 funds.

School districts are allowed to use funds for preschool programs.

1991 VT legislation required that all 3-5 year olds with disabilities are entitled to receive early special education services.

2000 Kindergarten Readiness Survey developed, piloted and implemented.

2003 Vermont Early Learning standards articulate expectations for school readiness

2007 Act 62: Allowed for voluntary participation by school districts to offer children 3-5 years old access to 6-10 hours per week of publically funded preschool. Also promoted partnerships between school districts and existing qualified private programs, required community input before establishing or expanding pre-k programs and established weighted ADM for school districts to count pre-k students.

2013 Vermont receives Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant.

2014 Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan: Developed as a result of the drafting of an Early Childhood Framework, this action plan proposes key goals for Vermont's early childhood programs and services.

2014 Act 166: Universal access to preschool bill is passed.

2015 Vermont receives Preschool Development Expansion grant.

Revised Vermont Early learning Standards are adopted by State Board of Education

Revised and newly validated Kindergarten Readiness Survey is deployed and completed by 97% of kindergarten teachers.

2016 Full implementation of Act 166.